

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-9, 11-15, 17-25, and 28-30 are presented for further examination. Claims 1, 5-7, 9, 11, 13, 21, 24, and 25 have been amended. Claims 2, 10, 16, 26, and 27 have been canceled. Claims 29 and 30 are new.

In the Office Action mailed April 15, 2005, the Examiner allowed claims 18-20 and 28, and found claims 2, 5-7, 10-11, 16, 20 and 24-25 to be allowable if rewritten into independent form. The remaining claims, *i.e.*, claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 9, 12-15, 17, 21-23, 26, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,619,466 (“McClure”).

Applicants respectfully request further examination of the claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 2. Hence, claim 1 is now dependent claim 2 rewritten into independent form. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and dependent claims 3-8 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 9 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable dependent claim 10. In view of the allowability of dependent claim 10, applicants respectfully submit that claim 9, as well as dependent claims 11 and 12 are allowable.

Independent claim 13 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable dependent claim 16. Thus, claim 13 is now dependent claim 16 rewritten into independent form. Applicants submit that claim 13 and dependent claims 14, 15, and 17 are now in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 21 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable dependent claim 24. Thus, claim 21 is now dependent claim 24 rewritten into independent form. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 21 and dependent claims 22, 23, and 25 are now in condition for allowance.

New claims 29 and 30 depend from allowed claim 28 and hence are allowable.

In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that all of the claims remaining in this application are now in condition for allowance. In the event the Examiner finds minor informalities that can be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is urged to contact applicants’ undersigned representative by telephone at (206) 622-4900 in order to expeditiously

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resolve prosecution of this application. Consequently, early and favorable action allowing these claims and passing this case to issuance is respectfully solicited.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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